

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

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AMEMBASSY BONN

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AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 07276

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UNGA, KS, KN, BE, US

SUBJECT: 31ST UNGA: BELGIAN DEMARCHE ON KOREA CORE GROUP

REFS: (A) USUN 2964 (B) STATE 177803 (NOTAL) (C) BRUSSELS 5030

(NOTAL)

1. AMBASSADOR ANDRE ERNEMANN, FOREIGN MINISTRY'S DIRECTOR OF MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS AND PERMREP-DESIGNATE TO UN, CONVEYED TO US JULY 22 BACKGROUND OF BELGIAN CHARGE CAHEN'S JULY 16 DEMARCHE TO DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY BAKER (REFTEL B). ERNEMANN SAID THAT MFA DIRECTOR GENERAL DAVIGNON IS CONCERNED IN U.S. PERFORMANCE IN KOREA CORE GROUP. ACCORDING TO ERNEMANN, BELGIUM SEES CORE GROUP AS FORUM IN WHICH MEMBES SHOULD "CONSULT AND ACT IN CONCERT" ON KOREAN ISSUE. AS DAVIGNON SEES IT, U.S. USED CORE GROUP MEETINGS TO "INFORM" OTHER MEMBERS OF COURSE OF ACTION THAT U.S. AND ROK HAD ALREADY DECIDED UPON, OR TO "INSTRUCT" OTHER MEMBERS ON THEIR ROLE IN A SCENARIO ALREADY DECIDED UPON. BELGIANS DO NOT HAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT

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U.S. HAS MUCH INTEREST IN WHAT CORE GROUP MEMBERS HAVE TO

CONTRIBUTE TO POLICY OR TACTICS. ERNEMANN SAID BELGIAN PROBLEM WITH U.S. ON CORE GROUP WAS ESSENTIALLY ONE OF FORM, NOT SUBSTANCE. NEVERTHELESS, BELGIUM HAS SOME SUBSTANTIVE IDEAS ABOUT THE QUESTION OF ABOLITION OF UNC THAT IT CONSIDERS MERIT CAREFUL CORE GROUP EXAMINATION.

2. AMBASSADOR ERNEMANN SAID BELGIANS WERE PLEASED WITH BAKER'S GENEROUS RESPONSE TO CAHEN, ALTHOUGH CONCERN HERE HAS NOT BEEN ALLAYED. ERNEMANN CITED JULY 21 CORE GROUP MEETING AS EVIDENCE THERE OF: U.S. "INFORMS" GROUP ABOUT SECRETARY'S SEATTLE SPEECH CONTAINING NEW ELEMENTS AND "ASKS" (I.E. INSTRUCTS) GROUP TO GO FORTH AND SELL THE NEW LINE. HE SAID BELGIUM WOULD CARRY OUT ITS CORE GROUP RESPONSIBILITIES AS CONVENOR IN VARIOUS NON-ALIGNED CAPITALS THIS TIME BECAUSE IT DID NOT WANT TO DISRUPT THE CORE GROUP EFFORT AT THIS LATE DATE.

3. COMMENT: DAVIGNON, WHO IS ACCUSTOMED TO CLOSE AND THOROUGH CONSULTATION WITH USG ON IMPORTANT POLICY ISSUES, HAS CLEARLY BEEN PUT OFF BY WHAT HE REGARDS AS ERRAND-BOY ROLE ASSIGNED TO BELGIUM IN CORE GROUP WORK. HE IS PROBABLY MORE THATN USUALLY EXERCISED BECAUSE HE HAS TAKEN A PERSONAL INTEREST IN TRYING TO ACHIEVE A SATISFACTORY OUTCOME OF THE KOREA PROBLEM IN UNGA (REF C). WHAT IS AT RISK HERE IS NOT CORE GROUP APPROACH FOR UPCOMING UNGA BUT A RECEPTIVE BELGIAN ATTITUDE TO OUR INITIATIVES IN FUTURE UN MATTERS.FIRESTONE

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